

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated December 6, 2010 and the Advisory Action dated April 21, 2011. Claims 3, 6, and 12 are in the application, all of which are independent. Claims 3, 6, and 12 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephone interview conducted on May 6, 2011. During that interview, the Examiner tentatively indicated that if an RCE were filed together with the foregoing amendments, the next action would not be made final. Accordingly, in keeping with this indication, an RCE is being submitted herewith.

In the final Office Action, Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,497,997 (Glezer); and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Glezer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,378,428 (Farina). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 6, and 12 recite, *inter alia*, the culturing area is exposed on a surface of the cell culture substrate.

Neither Glezer nor Farina, even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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